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Letter dated 14 October 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to submit to you the joint statement of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization — the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan — on the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia (see annex).

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex were issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 96, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kairat **Abdrakhmanov**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 14 October 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization concerning the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia

The States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, considering the importance of the process of disarmament and the strengthening of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime, reaffirm their strong support for the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia (hereafter "Semipalatinsk Treaty"), which was signed in Semipalatinsk on 8 September 2006 by the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan, and which entered into force on 21 March 2009.

With the signing of the Semipalatinsk Treaty, the vast region in the heart of the Eurasian continent permanently became a nuclear-weapon-free zone. The parties to the Treaty have thus made a vital contribution to the strengthening of regional security and the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

The creation of this zone constituted a major step towards promoting cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and in the environmental rehabilitation of territories affected by radioactive contamination, and is an effective contribution to combating international nuclear terrorism and preventing nuclear materials and technologies from falling into the hands of non-State actors, primarily terrorists.

This year, another important step was taken towards institutionalizing the nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia. We welcome the fact that on 6 May 2014, in New York, representatives of the five nuclear-weapon States signed the Protocol to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia concerning negative security assurances.

We trust that the Protocol will be speedily ratified by all five nuclear-weapon States, as it will complete the process of institutionalizing the zone.

We are convinced that this will make a substantial contribution to the process of disarmament, the strengthening of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime and the peaceful use of nuclear energy, in the interest of eliminating the global nuclear danger.